

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for treating a bone condition associated with excessive resorption or breakdown of bone tissue, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof FGF-8, or a FGF-8 agonist, wherein the FGF-8 comprises an amino acid sequence which is the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, 2, or 3, wherein the FGF-8 agonist comprises an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3, and wherein FGF-8 or the FGF-8 agonist is administered in an amount effective to treat the bone condition in the patient.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein FGF-8 is administered, ~~and wherein the amino acid sequence of FGF-8 is SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.~~

3-4. (Canceled)

3 ~~1~~. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the FGF-8 agonist is administered, and wherein the FGF-8 agonist comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 98% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.

4 ~~2~~. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the FGF-8 agonist is administered, and wherein the FGF-8 agonist comprises SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3 with up to 10 conservative amino acid substitutions.

5 ~~7~~. (Currently amended) A method for increasing or maintaining bone density, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof FGF-8, or a FGF-8 agonist, wherein the FGF-8 comprises an amino acid sequence which is the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, 2, or 3, wherein the FGF-8 agonist comprises an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3, and wherein FGF-8 or the FGF-8 agonist is administered in an amount effective to increase or maintain bone density in the subject.

6 ~~8~~. (Currently amended) The method of claim ⁵~~7~~, wherein FGF-8 is administered, ~~and wherein the amino acid sequence of FGF-8 is SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.~~

9-10. (Canceled)

7 ~~11~~. (Previously presented) The method of claim ⁵~~7~~, wherein the FGF-8 agonist is administered, and wherein the FGF-8 agonist comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 98% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.

8 ~~12~~. (Previously presented) The method of claim ⁵~~7~~, wherein the FGF-8 agonist is administered, and wherein the FGF-8 agonist comprises SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3 with up to 10 conservative amino acid substitutions.

13.-18. (Canceled)

19-20. (Canceled)

9 ~~21~~. (Currently amended) A method for treating osteoporosis, osteopenia, bone defects, or osteogenesis imperfecta, comprising:
administration to a subject in need thereof FGF-8, or a FGF-8 agonist, wherein the FGF-8 comprises an amino acid sequence which is the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, 2, or 3,

wherein the FGF-8 agonist comprises an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3, wherein FGF-8 or the FGF-8 agonist is administered in an amount effective to treat the osteoporosis, osteopenia, bone defects, or osteogenesis imperfecta in the subject.

22. (Canceled)

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10 ~~25~~. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~21~~, wherein FGF-8 is administered, ~~and wherein the amino acid sequence of FGF-8 is SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.~~

24-25. (Canceled)

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11 ~~26~~. (Previously presented) The method of claim ~~21~~, wherein the FGF-8 agonist is administered, and wherein the FGF-8 agonist comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 98% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.

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12 ~~27~~. (Previously presented) The method of claim ~~21~~, wherein the FGF-8 agonist is administered, and wherein the FGF-8 agonist comprises SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3 with up to 10 conservative amino acid substitutions.